
YOUTH AND NON VIOLENCE IN GUINEA

Search for Common Ground in Guinea
Final Narrative Report
To
USAID Guinea

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Contact Information

Frances Fortune
Africa Director (Authorized to Negotiate)
Search for Common Ground
Sierra Leone
44 Bathurst Street
Freetown, Sierra Leone
ffortune@sfcg.org
Tel: 232-76-603098

Quentin Kanyatsi
Country Director
Search for Common Ground
Guinea
Kaparo Cite-Ratoma
Conakry Guinea
qkanyatsi@sfcg.org
Tel: +224-30-478469

I. INTRODUCTION

In September 2008, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and USAID signed an 18-month contract for a project entitled 'Youth and Non-Violence in Guinea' with a goal of promoting non-violence in youth in targeted cities in Guinea. The overall project goal is that, by the project's completion, youth in the targeted areas use non-violent methods to resolve conflict.

The project came in response to the deteriorating state of internal security in Guinea and the normalization of violence as a means of protest and complaint among young people in the country. In anticipation of elections, now scheduled for the end of June, 2010, SFCG implemented a project to target 'at risk' youth in three cities that saw some of the worst violence during strikes in January 2007: Kankan, Kindia and Mamou. Youth there are particularly vulnerable to manipulation by political and ethnic entrepreneurs. This level of vulnerability becomes elevated in light of the political violence taking place in the fall of 2009, and the rising tensions around the upcoming elections.

This project was based on the concept that information is a powerful driver of change, and has two objectives:

- To increase the knowledge of youth in conflict management techniques, human rights and their civic responsibilities;
- To build the capacity of youth in the target areas to resist manipulation and the use of violence to resolve conflicts.

This report covers the implementation of activities, their results, and the challenges faced during the project period of October 2008 to April 2010. This report also covers the last quarter of implementation from January to March, 2010. The first section of the report covers this period, and discusses the final quarter's activities. The report then provides information on the project as a whole, looking at activities, accomplishments, and challenges throughout the project life.

II. CONTEXT

The eighteen months of SFCG's Youth and Non-Violence project have been marked by significant political changes and turmoil in Guinea. The death of Gen. Lansana Conte in December 2008 opened the door for change to the political system but also to instability. Conte had been in power since 1984, and although he had briefly experimented with some democratic reforms, ruled in an autocratic manner. The change of the political status quo, which had been in place for nearly three decades, became a source for both tension, as well as hope. Within hours of Conte's death a military junta, led by Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, assumed power. Camara set up a provisional government and declared himself president, but promised new elections, in which he vowed not to run, and a greater



degree of democratization. By August of 2009, however, Camara had changed his mind, and announced he would be a candidate in the presidential elections that he scheduled for January 31, 2010. This announcement provoked mass protests on the part of the opposition and Guinea experienced a wave of violence. In September 2009, the military opened fire on an opposition rally killing over 150 and drawing international censure. The government used the incident to issue harsher penalties and placed bans on opposition gatherings. Negotiations between the opposition and the government, mediated by Blaise Compaoré, president of Burkina Faso, made little progress. Tension boiled over on December 3rd, when a former aide made an attempt on Camara's life. Camara was flown to Morocco for treatment, and then Burkina Faso for recovery. General Sékouba Konaté, his second in command, took power.

The removal of Camara brought some progress towards reaching a compromise with the opposition, ending the political crisis, and transitioning to a democratically elected, civilian government. The National Commission for Transition was established and presidential elections, were promised within the next six months. The new government structure accounted for almost all the concerns raised by the Forum des Forces Vives (FFV), composed of unions, opposition parties, and civil society organizations. It also prohibited military personnel, all members of the junta, and members of the transitional government from participating in the election. Jean-Marie Dore, one of FFV's most prominent members, was sworn in as Prime Minister of the transitional government. Campaigning for the presidential election began in May, and despite some concerns, revolving around security and the full participation of all parties, they look to be Guinea's first free and fair elections since those in 1958. In early June, a dozen officers close to Camara were arrested in Guinea based on accusations of financial mismanagement and held for four days, before being released pending further investigation. However, these arrests do not seem to have had a negative effect on preparations for the presidential elections, scheduled for June 27, 2010.

This period of transition and instability has had a large impact on the Guinean population, and youth in particular, who constitute a large portion of the population. Not only have Guineans been subject to increased levels of political violence, but the crisis has aggravated economic problems. The choice of many donors to pull out of or reduce their funding to Guinea following the 2008 coup and the depreciation of the Guinean franc raised the price for basic necessities like food and fuel. High youth unemployment, especially in urban areas, coupled with these economic concerns makes them targets of political manipulation by actors as well as possible agents of political violence.

The upcoming elections scheduled for the end of June, also mark a source of tension. They are both exceptionally promising, as the potential source for a peaceful transition to democratic governance, but also present the opportunity for further political violence and disenfranchisement. This holds especially true if marginalized groups such as youth, but also the population at the large, are manipulated or frustrated by an unsuccessful election process. However, the general optimism approaching elections and the population's embrace of change are all promising signs in advance of the elections.

III. FINAL QUARTER ACTIVITIES

During the last project quarter, January – March, 2010, SFCG continued to implement the final activities for the Youth and Non Violence project. These consisted of the final outreach activities as well as the continued media productions and broadcasting. Specifically, the different activities for the last quarter include:

- Youth outreach promoting non-violent means to resolve conflicts
- Workshops on non-violent interscholastic competition
- Production of a documentary film about the project
- Creation of synergy between the participating organizations in Mamou
- The production and distribution of the radio series "Barada"

A. Outreach activities raising youth awareness of non-violence and peace-building

A delegation led by the field director and media representatives visited the towns of Kindia, Mamou and Kankan from February 9 to 19, 2010. The visits had several objectives: (1) to inquire into the implementation of outreach activities in urban municipalities, the CRD, and surrounding districts; (2) to share feedback about the project’s impacts with



Youth Center in Kindia

participants and authorities at all levels; (3) to make recommendations regarding the project’s renewal; and finally (4) to oversee workshops on interscholastic competition that promoted a culture of nonviolence and peace-building, an initiative by the Center for Listening, Counseling, and Guidance for Young People (CECOJE). During these visits, young participants and authorities from the three communities enthusiastically discussed the impacts of the project:

This project is so important that speaking of its end troubles us greatly. Its design and implementation helped us to quickly understand the goal and challenged us to reach out to our young friends.
- **Local Kindia moderator**

Your project’s radio programs have been able to cultivate what parents and authorities have not been able to teach: a sense of moderation and dialogue. This has contributed to the current transition in Guinea. – **Mamady Diané, Police Inspector**

The following tables outline the participation in the outreach activities by organization, month, and number of participants for the outreach activities conducted during the last project quarter. The table also gives insight as to the number of men and women taking part in the given activities.

[

KANKAN

Organization	Participants					
	January			February		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
CECOJE – GHA	78	9	87	23	2	25
AFEV – AGUIPA	49	6	55	28	6	34
AJA – AJDAPE	212	63	275	175	32	207
GND-HEREMAKONO	69	0	69	25	8	33
JADE – CAFIK	57	38	95	208	26	234
AAJEG – CGPD	87	63	130	69	21	90
Total	453	179	632	628	95	723

In Mamou, there were also 12 such outreach activities with a total of 867 participants, of which 178 were women and 689 were men.

MAMOU

Organization	Participants					
	January			February		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
AJDEM – CLTM	23	2	25	34	18	52
MM – AJDD	25	6	31	83	25	108
AJS – AJEAM	100	32	132	82	33	115
ADEL – COJEDEM	25	8	33	55	7	62
CECOJE – MAJD	160	26	186	25	X	25
JVC – ASB	54	21	75	23	X	23
Total	387	95	482	302	83	385

In Kindia, 6 outreach activities were organized in January. Twenty-eight percent, or 88 of the 305 participants, were women.

KINDIA

Organization	Participants		
	January		
	Men	Women	Total
CLUB DES AMIS /AKM	34	10	44
APROFIL/KANIA YIGUI	45	17	62
BBS/ANV	22	8	30
ETOILE DE KANIA/ FONDATION 3F	37	17	54
AGUIBEJ/SAMAYA RANDO	38	14	52
ADDEF/GONGO DE SARAKOLEAH	41	22	63
Total	217	88	305

B. Follow On Training:

During the past quarter, SFCG continued with its outreach and follow on training activities with youth in the three target areas. The trainings were taken place in the form of workshops on scholastic competition and the culture of non-violence. The outreach activities in the urban municipalities and surrounding districts took different forms, including mini-seminars, open-air meetings and theater performances. In Kankan, 12 youth peace-building activities involved 1355 participants: 1081 men and 274 women. In addition, the other follow on activities consisted of 3 workshops promoting peacebuilding and non-violent approaches to interscholastic competition. These workshops focused on the following themes:



Mamou Authorities in the front row of a Synergy Workshop

- The Culture of Non Violence
- The role of women and youth in peacebuilding
- The electoral process

The feedback from the workshops depicted a strong interest in the content of the material as well as for the themes of the discussions, generally. Prior to launching the workshops, program managers held interviews about the impact of SFCG’s work. One young student of the Tamagaly CRD in Mamou said that he’d never known violence, but through outreach campaigns and interactive radio programs on non-violence, he’d gained consciousness, and understood that violence is negative in all its forms.



Youth Leader receiving training certificate from SFCG Director

Locations	Estimated participation	Date
Kindia	400 participants	Feb. 17 & 18, 2010
Mamou	650 participants	Feb. 10, 2010
Kankan	1000 participants	Feb. 13 & 14, 2010

C. Production of a documentary film about the project

To highlight the positive and negative impacts of this project, an SFCG team – consisting of a field agent, assistant producer, and a cameraman from the Guinean Radio and Television –

made a documentary on the intervention activities. This documentary conducted interviews with all actors involved directly or indirectly in the project. These included youth, authorities, opinion leaders and religious leaders.

D. Production and Broadcast of Barada and Interactive Radio Program

During the last quarter, SFCG oversaw the production of both interactive radio shows, where callers were invited to participate, and a radio drama, “Barada,” in the regions of Kindia, Mamou, and Kankan. Programs were well received by the public and demand exceeded for programming exceeded the number of programs that could be produced.

Call-in radio shows were broadcast in the languages most suitable for each region, Soussou in Kindia, Poular in Mamou, and Malinke in Kankan, in addition to French. During the period between January and March 2010, radio shows focused heavily on the role and duties of young people during Guinea’s transition period. Approximately three radio shows were produced each month in each region, although Kindia was not able to produce any television shows in March. Specific topics included the peaceful resolution of conflicts, the role of young people in the electoral process, and discussions about non-violence in the education system, which was particularly popular among callers. In all regions young people were the most enthusiastic and frequent participants.



Mamou Authorities in the front row of a Synergy Workshop

Between two and six episodes of “Barada” were produced in each of the regions between January and March. Both French and local languages were used, and topics focused heavily on the challenges young people face, national unity, and the role that young people ought to play in Guinea’s transition period.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

During the course of the project, SFCG carried out a number of activities in support of the objectives listed above. Through the use of outreach and media, SFCG undertook activities aimed at engaging youth, raising awareness, and building their capacity to prevent, and resolve conflicts, while encouraging positive behavior and attitude change. The activities included the production and broadcast of radio programs focused on youth and youth issues, training for youth associations and leaders, youth festivals, and follow on training. Each activity was designed and implemented in a way that compliments the other activities, so as to maximize the impact of the overall project. This approach included aligning the messages of the radio programming with that of the content and training and themes of the festivals. The approach also encouraged collaboration and leadership by conducting youth Training of Trainers (TOT) as well as the inclusion of restitution trainings by the youth who took part in SFCG training.

During the course of the project, SFCG carried out the following activities:

- Completion of a Baseline Survey;
- Selection and training of Youth Trainer of Trainers (TOTs);
- 90 Follow on Training Sessions with 7283 participants to raise youth awareness organized by the youth of Kindia, Mamou, and Kankan. The youth, you were previously trained in these areas, visited these three different sites and in turn trained other youth;
- 61 Interactive programs focused on the training received by the (Kindia, Mamou, and Kankan) youth;
- 93 radio magazine programs called 'Barada', the live radio magazine, with programs produced in each of the three localities related to the impact of the training on the youth;
- 3 youth festivals in order to promote collaboration and peacebuilding amongst youth;
- Procurement initiative of USAID branding items for distribution; and
- A final project evaluation

The following section outlines the activities completed over the course of the project, and gives insight into the progress of the project.

PROJECT PREPARATIONS AND INTIAL ACTIVITIES

1. Baseline Survey

At the launch of the project, in June and July 2008, SFCG conducted a study to gather information and gauge youth levels of understanding of human rights, their attitudes towards violence as a means to resolve conflict, and their radio listening habits. Taking place in 4 different cities, the research was conducted to give background data to the SFCG team for the project start up. The research was also conducted to gain a better understanding of the target audience, and to better ensure that the youth are targeted in a meaningful and useful way.

The interview centered around two main questions:

- Whether the youth have a tendency to react violently to conflict and challenges? ; and
- What were the types of conflicts which the youth were facing in their lives?

The results of the baseline proved very useful in determining to some degree, the level of latent and potential conflict existing with youth and in the target communities. Additionally, the baseline results pointed out a strong majority of youth are perceived by key stakeholders in their communities as violent, and subject to manipulation. The results also showed that youth were involved with specific types of violence or conflict in particular. Based on a wide range of answers were given, some of the more common include:

1. Generational conflicts between young adults and their elders as both compete for scarce jobs, with young people more likely to be unemployed.
2. Political conflicts, with the young reacting to rhetoric and manipulation by political leaders.
3. Land conflicts especially in rural areas resulting from family inheritance disputes.

4. High level of violence among youths as a means of expressing their frustration because of exclusion from decision –making, in particular around issues that affect their lives

Key findings from the survey found that significant divisions existed in the target groups, and that nearly half of respondents did not believe that human rights applied to everyone. Although significant portions of the respondents (83%) rejected or strongly rejected violence as a conflict resolution tool, (73%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their peers would respond differently; indicating a strong perception that violence is widely used.

Other findings include:

- Males are more inclined to approve of the use of violence than women.
- The older they were the more inclined they were to see violence as acceptable.
- Levels of education have little impact on general attitudes towards the use of violence in 3 out of 4 locations.
- The most independent, also reject violence the most.

These findings allowed for SFCG to develop useful training curricula and organize activities, as well as gave insight on how to address the different groups within the target communities. It also found that the recommendations of key stakeholders in the community, aligned with the objectives of the project. Specifically, the recommendations include:

- Youth need to be trained on non violence as a way to address their concerns, as well as learning about good citizenship;
- Youth and others need to be informed and sensitized on their rights and obligations under the law;
- Continue to sensitize and educate youths through outreach activities such as drama, football games, peace festivals, etc.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

2. Selection and Training of ‘Training of Trainers’ (TOT)

Building off the lessons learned in the baseline survey, the interviews with key stakeholders, and the methodology set forth for the project, SFCG launched the outreach and training component of the project, with initial ‘Training of Trainers.’

Throughout the duration of the project, SFCG conducted a total of 3 Training of Trainers with youth in Kindia and Mamou and Kankan.

The training took a participatory approach, with the participants working frequently in small groups, holding brainstorming sessions, and presenting their ideas to other groups. These exercises were followed by practical exercises. Participants included youth leaders from a variety of associations and organizations. Also taking part in the



Youth Participants in a Soccer Match in Kindia

training were members of civil society including NGOs, local government representatives and rural radio staff. By bringing a diverse group of participants, the training encouraged collaboration and innovation. The TOT's also engaged local and government officials, who would take part in the opening or closing ceremony to show their support.

The trainings had five main objectives:

- To define and explain the rights and responsibilities of Guinea youth and their interdependence
- To explain the different laws in Guinea, Africa and Internationally governing human rights,
- To define and explain different communication techniques, how communication works, its impact on behaviour change and what factors influence changes in behaviour,
- To define and demonstrate different styles of leadership, including transformational leadership, and
- To define and analyse different types of violence as well as their consequences.

The feedback gained in the trainings also allowed for the further development of the training content. Three of the central themes that participants wanted to learn about included:

- Know how to be a good leader
- Understand how to change the behaviour of someone
- Understand the human rights that apply to youth and to people in general.

All three themes align with the findings of the baseline survey. As the results indicate generally high levels of violence and frustration around social problems, it reveals a need for youth to understand and develop ways to prevent and resolve these tensions. Additionally, as the results indicated a low level of awareness of human rights, and how they apply. Using the results of the baseline surveys as well as the feedback gained from the trainings, SFCG was able to address these issues in the following TOT sessions.

After the participants completed the trainings, they organized restitution or follow on trainings with the youth in their respective communities.

3. Follow on Training

In order to achieve sustainable results and a wider impact, the Trainers who took part in the ToT sessions, organized their local associations to hold follow on training with the youth in their communities. In total the Trainers carried out **90 follow on trainings**, with **7,283 participants**.

The themes addressed during the trainings reflected that of the TOT sessions, while adapting to the context of each community. Specifically, the follow on activities include the following:

- Human rights, citizenship, and rights and responsibilities;
- Leadership, communication techniques and behavior change; and
- Non-Violence and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Also building from the TOT sessions, the follow on trainings took a collaborative approach, soliciting participants to work with one another to find solutions the problems presented in the trainings. The follow on trainings took place in Mamou, Kindia and Kankan with an increasingly strong participation from youth and the community alike. In total, 7,283 participants took part in the community follow on activities. This includes the participation of 1075 women and 2146 men. Although SFCG would have liked to have seen an overall stronger participant of women in the follow on training, and increasing number of women took part in the trainings throughout the project life. These activities took different forms, including mini-seminars, open-air meetings and theater performances. To encourage participation and excitement, SFCG organized activities such as a competition among the groups to see who could bring together the largest crowd. Throughout the follow on training, the trainers aimed at capturing a collaborative approach and sense of community within the structure of the training.



Participants in Follow on Training in Kankan

Continuity Activities:

Building on the follow on training, SFCG also encouraged each group to take action to continue with the lessons learned in the follow on training. Examples of the kind of activities being carried out include theater and dance, or discussion groups carried out by training participants. Each group receives a small level of financial support to help cover the costs of transport, however the enthusiasm and commitment the youth associations have shown in continuing to implement activities goes far beyond this amount.



Youth Club Members in Kankan

4. Youth Festivals

Throughout the span of the project, with the support of its local partners, SFCG organized and held a total of 3 youth festivals in Kindia, Mamou, and Kankan. The youth festivals not only complimented both the outreach and media components of the project, but it also acted as a venue for the three communities to take part in a collaborative event, strengthening community cohesion. The previously selected 12 youth groups, who took part in the training activities, collaborated together in the youth festivals. Each association paired up with another to give a presentation on their knowledge of themes addressed in the trainings. Throughout the three festivals, these themes consisted of

- Leadership

- Non-violence;
- Rights and responsibilities of youth;
- Qualities of good leaders;
- Peaceful management of conflict;
- Effective methods of communication; and
- Mediation techniques.



A winning Team: Through music and drama the team illustrated the rights of citizens and youth. To the right a girl is forced to work by her parents rather than go to school.

Although each regional festival differed in nature, the structure of the festivals remained similar. Each group consisted of two youth groups for a total of six groups per team. Each team worked together to devise a theatrical presentation based on the themes addressed in the trainings. The presentations were supported by song and dance with a focus on cultural songs. This activity encouraged a strong participation. During theatrical presentations, each association paired up with another participating group to act out scenarios around roles and responsibilities of citizens, qualities of good leaders, and peaceful management of conflict, and communication and mediation techniques. Presentations ranged from theater and dance to cultural songs. An independent jury of four people judged each act based on its communication (clarity and content of message), popularity with the spectators, the visual effects of the presentation, the quality of the acting or performance of the performers and time keeping. The presentations ranged from theatre and dance, to cultural songs. The judges consisted of a representative group consisting of mix of representatives of government, media, civil society etc.

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Throughout the project life, media acted as a central component, complimenting the other activities taking place simultaneously such as the trainings, festivals, or other outreach activities. The media component consisted of the production and broadcast of radio programming aimed primarily at youth. The media programming is produced in French, Malinke, Soussou, and Pular, in order to reach the maximum number of beneficiaries.

5. Production and Broadcast of 15 Minute Radio Magazine

"I'm convinced that even though I will never be able to pronounce the name of your organization, I'm sure that if your project had taken place before the strikes (2007) Kankan wouldn't have experienced so much damage as it did."
– Listener in Kankan

During the course of the project, SFCG produced and broadcast **126 episodes** of the fifteen minute radio magazine program called *Barada*. The title comes from the word for a teapot, or cauldron, which is synonymous across the region for being the place where young people gather to discuss their thoughts and ideas with each other. The title underlines the focus of the magazine which is to give youth the space where they can discuss their

ideas and give voice to their feelings as well as being a place where they can learn about non-violence, rights and responsibilities, citizenship and leadership. The programs would also feature the activities taking place in the towns of the target area. This would include SFCG activities taking place such as a festival or training. The program acted as both a method for engagement as well as a vehicle to disseminate the information presented during the outreach activities to a much wider audience. The production of the magazine includes vox pops, field interviews, and roundtable discussions that all feed into the program.

6. Production and Broadcast of Live Call-in Program

The second segment of the media component of this project includes a live chat show, where youth as well as other members of the population can call into the program, ask questions, and get responses from the participants on the program. Throughout the project life, SFCG produced and broadcast **83 episodes** of the live call in talk shows in four local languages. Participants generally consist of experts on the particular topics, generally from civil society, media, local government, or a local organization. The program has yielded positive feedback throughout the time it was broadcast. It allowed for a space for communication and for the participants to express their ideas, concerns, and questions surrounding a particular topic. The live call in programs aimed to complement the radio magazine program by providing a platform for youth to discussion pertinent issues around non-violence, citizenship and democracy.

I think young people have the most responsibility when it comes to furthering the development and progress of our nation. – Anonamous caller

7. Procurement of USAID Branding Items:

During the last phase of the project, SFCG procured a number of items with the official USAID and SFCG logo on it to be disbursed to youth and other participants in the target communities. The effort aimed at procuring useful items, with the donor visibility to the outreach activity participants.

- Pens
- Sacks
- Umbrella's
- T-Shirts



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- Caps
- Lanyards
- Key Chains; and
- Bumper Stickers

V. RESULTS

The quarterly and overall results of the project were positive, with the completion of all planned activities, and having met the expected outputs

a) Outputs:

Output 1: Awareness campaign for youth group members

Output	Total Target	Kankan	Kindia	Mamou	Sixth quarter	Total to Date
# of activities held	24	12	6	6	24	72
# of participants	1756	(227 Women) 951 Total	(180 Women) 428 Total	(82 Women) 377 Total	(489 Women) 1756 Total	(2297 Women) 7283 Total
# of people trained in conflict mitigation/ resolution skills with USG assistance (PS 6.1)	1756	951	428	377	1756	7283

Output 2: Radio magazine programs produced

Output	Total Target	6th quarter	Total to Date
# of radio magazine produced	38 (#by language)	31 6 French 8 Sousou 9 Pular 8 Malinke	93 In French, Sousou, Pular and Malinke
# of USG-assisted public information campaigns to support peaceful	38 (#by language)	31	93

resolution of conflicts

Output 3: Radio call-in shows facilitated

Output	Total Target	Q 6 Kankan	Q 6 Kindia	Q 6 Mamou	Sixth quarter	Total to Date
# of call-in shows hosted	25	8	10	9	27	61
# of USG-assisted public information campaigns to support peaceful resolution of conflicts	25	8	10	9	27	61

b) Outcomes:

I.R. 1.

Youth in the targeted areas demonstrate they have gained knowledge on conflict management, human rights and their civic responsibilities and have used it in their lives.

Indicator:

% of youth leaders who show increased understanding of human rights and conflict management techniques. Target 60% of participants show increase.

- In Mamou – 24 of 24 participants showed an increase in knowledge – therefore 100% of participants showed an increase.
- The increase from below 50% to above 50% rose from 25% of participants to 75% of participants.

of youth who report resolving a conflict in their lives through non-violent means in the past month. Target: 70% of interviewed.

- N/A

I.R. 2

Information and platforms for dialogue on issues of conflict management, human rights, and non-violence communication are more available and accessible to youth

Indicator:

% of listeners to radio program who have gained information from the programme on conflict management techniques and human rights. Target 70%

- 73% of respondents answered positively on questions of human rights

I.R. 3

Youth show they can resist manipulation and demonstrate a capacity to resolve conflict nonviolently.

Indicator:

of trained youth who report resolving a conflict in their lives through non-violent means in the past month. Target: 70%

- N/A

Qualitative results suggest that participants benefitted from the project as a means of allowing them to collaborate with each other and among youth associations.

All people interviewed – young participants, local authorities, and civil society leaders – stated that no major instances of violence have occurred in their respective cities since the events of 2007. The independent evaluator found a broad consensus acknowledging that violence has decreased considerably and appreciating how youth in Kindia, Mamou and Kankan have started playing a more positive role in their communities. “Young people are more peaceful now,” said an Imam from Kindia, “they use mediation more.” The Secretary for Administration in Mamou expressed his support for the project, stating that “young people are now abandoning violence.” Despite the potential for violence after the September 28 massacre at Conakry, youth remained peaceful and calm. Several young people in Mamou mentioned rejecting calls to violence from peers in Conakry.

In a survey of the pertinence of human rights and conflict resolution, 77% answered that human rights were very pertinent. In regards to conflict resolution, 53% thought these were very pertinent and 20% felt they were somewhat pertinent. Respondents were able to identify nonviolent methods of conflict resolution, with the top three techniques cited: mediation, negotiation, and dialogue.

45% of all respondents listed to Barada, while 68% of respondents listed to the interactive show. The Directors of Radio Rurale in all three cities indicated there was an increase in the overall number of listeners.

According to survey data, manipulation is now becoming the main target of activities with the election approaching quickly. This suggests that the relevance of projects that respond to the problem of manipulation will increase, as will the effectiveness of activities in addressing it.

c) Goal:

Youth in the targeted areas use non-violent methods to resolve conflict.

Indicator:

of stakeholders in the target cities who say there is a decrease in violent behaviour among youth in their areas. Target: A 40% improvement over the baseline figure.

N/A

VI. FINAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY OF GUINEA FINAL EVALUATION

In accordance with the guidelines of SFCG’s agreement with USAID for the project entitled *Youth and Non-Violence in Guinea*, SFCG completed a project evaluation looking at the progress of the project throughout the 18 month project life. Additionally, it measured the results of the project as compared to the agreed set of indicators. The M&E team undertook the evaluation in order to achieve three underlying objectives:

1. Evaluate the impact of the project;
2. Collect stories of changed caused by the project; and
3. Provide recommendations for future planning.

In 28 days, 14 of which were spent in Guinea, the evaluation team was able to review the achievements of the project and clearly identify results. The generally successful project proved to be highly effective, resulting in the achievement of one of the major objectives: increasing the knowledge of participants. The relevance of the project was stressed, with its direct impact in changing the role of Rural Radio in the three cities as well as the notably more positive role youth are playing in their communities. *A full copy of the evaluation can be found in Annex II.*

Results: The results of the evaluation can be divided into three categories: relevance, sustainability, and impact. The project was timely, as many key stakeholders referenced the violence in 2007 and the importance of engaging young people during the transitional period to prevent violence in the future. Young participants were engaged to choose topics important to their peers and facilitate discussions on different forms of violence. The project was effective in achieving its objectives, including the increase of participants' knowledge, as assessed by the pre- and post-training questionnaires after each workshop. While allowing the youth participants to reflect on upcoming elections and the role of political parties in that process, local authorities expressed concern that political manipulation may become an issue. Participation in events was remarkably high with the highest level registered in the sensitization events. Increased listenership rates, as reported by the directors of Rural Radio and respondents, showing the pervasiveness of the radio magazine and interactive show. Other aspects of the project such as the peace festivals, although little information was extracted from them, were generally liked and seen as an opportunity to reach a wider audience. Another significant result of the project was the indication of the project's linkage with decreased level of violence, although it was not assessed rigorously. The changing of the role of Rural Radio in the three cities is a key suggestion about the impact of the overall project. The directors remarked that the overall quality of all radio programs increased and similar programs were being added to broadcasts signifying the popularity of the SFCG programs. Another finding about impact shows that the project has contributed to greater collaboration among young people and between youth associations. This new trend has eased the recognition and consultation of youth leadership. Because communication is a powerful driver of change, the increased level of interaction and engagement through radio, theatre, and the arts has helped many stakeholders to break taboo and discuss topics previously never approached through that medium before. The increased connection between government and civil society may lead to increased levels of social cohesion and reconciliation.

Challenges: Despite the project's general success, the evaluation team identified some challenges both in terms of the project and in their own assessment. The evaluation team had difficulty assessing the overall reach of the project due to insufficient information. There were several challenges in the implementation of the radio project in all three cities, due to the poor infrastructure in Guinea and the lack of adequate resources and equipment at the radio stations. The political climate also provided some challenges to free speech on the interactive radio programs, important to note with the forthcoming elections. Resources were again an issue as some participants highlighted the inadequate resource allocation for sensitization events. Other challenges with the actual evaluation included issues with data aggregation, less

than ideal conditions for administering the questionnaires, and the low number of project beneficiaries interviewed.

Recommendations: Along with the results and challenges, the team proposed recommendations for future work in Guinea. The team fully supports the continuation of the project activities based on the positive nature of the results and feedback from participants and stakeholders. By ensuring the continuation of the project, the achieved results can be consolidating, increasing its impact and reaching sustainability. Other recommendations for future planning and implementation included: creating a monitoring system better tailored to the project's specific formula; developing a more explicit gender strategy to ensure greater participation by women and young girls; defining key project terms further; organizing a more consistent and regular follow-up with beneficiaries; and increasing the amount of resources allocated to the organization of sensitization events.

VII. CHALLENGES

Throughout the project, a number of challenges have been identified. Both challenges resulting from difficulties associated with carrying out media and outreach activities in the Guinean context, as well as challenges resulting from the volatile political context have resulted. As a result of the political violence and changing situation in Guinea, the current social and political climate remains instable. Some of the key challenges experienced throughout the project period include:

- The political violence taking place in the 5th quarter of the project. This became a redflag in terms of carrying out both media and outreach activities. The activities were carried out as planned, not, however without delay;
- Youth unemployment is a risk that was identified at the conception of the project. Most youth in Guinea are unemployed and the project needs to be sensitive to that reality;
- Logistical and operational challenges with coordinating staff, materials, and equipment in the three primary target regions has been a challenge. This includes transportation during the more tense political periods;
- Although the primary target location for the project was not in Conakry, the political violence also enflamed latent tensions in the three primary target areas

Despite the challenges encountered during the project, the structure set in place at the beginning of the project, allowed for SFCG to carry out the planned activities under this grant. The lessons learned from the challenges will also be used as a tool for monitoring and evaluation of future projects, as well as in their design.

VII. ANNEXES

ANNEX I: Financial Report: The Final Financial Report will be submitted under separate cover

ANNEX II: Full Project Evaluation Report

ANNEX III: Media Programming for Final Quarter